(b) whether this documentary reveals the details as to how Pakistan Government supports terrorism in Kashmir, in the rest of India and in many parts of the world;

(c) whether the said documentary also incorporates interviews of the U.S. Secretary of State and Prime Minister of Pakistan—occupied Kashmir, proving the point that terrorism and subversion have become important components of Pakistan's regional strategy;

(d) whether Government propose to procure the said television documentary, to place the same in International fora to get Pakistan declared a terrorist State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to media reports the documentary reveals the details as to how Pakistan Government supports terrorism in Kashmir, in the rest of India and in many parts of the world. The reports also indicate that the documentary contains interviews with the former US Secretary of State, Mr. James Baker and the so-called Prime Minister of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and aims to project that terrorism and subversion have become important components of Pakistan's regional strategy.

(d) and (e) Government have initiated steps to procure a copy of the documentary. However, there is, as yet, no provision in international law to declare any specific country a 'State Sponsor of Terrorism' or a Terrorist State.

Visit of a Russian Leader to India

2469. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Russian leader visited India in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with the objectives of the visit;

(c) whether some discussions on certain topics were held with the visiting dignitary;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether the country has been benefited with this visit, in any way; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, Mr. Vladimir Zhirinovsky, had led a delegation of his party on a visit to India from 5 to 8 March, 1995. The visit took place at his initiative and was hosted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Mr. Zhirinovsky and his delegation called on the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and had a meeting with the Standing Committee on External Affairs. They also met the Ministers of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

(c) and (d) There was no official agenda for the visit. As the elected leader of one of the largest parties in the State Duma (Lower House) of the Russian Parliament, Mr. Zhirinovsky exchanged views on Indo-Russian Relations and other matters. During the discussions, both sides underlined that the tradition of warm friendship and close cooperation between India and Russia is in the national interests of both countries and contributes to peace and stability in the region and the world as also their desire to consolidate and strengthen these

relations in a multifaceted manner.

(e) and (f) Both countries consider interaction between their Parliaments as constituting a valuable extra dimension to their bilateral relationship and as underlining the multiparty and national consensus which exists in both countries as regards the importance of good Indo-Russian relations. The visit was useful in this context.

Abduction of Indian Fishermen by the Pakistani Maritime Agency

2470. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 2203 given in the Rajya Sabha on December 21, 1994 and state:

(a) how, when and from where the Indian fishermen and their boats were abducted by the Pakistani Maritime Security Agency and what are the details in this regard;

(b) what steps Government have taken so far for the release of Indian fishermen and their boats from the Pak custody and with what results;

(c) the number of Indian fishermen and their boats released so far and how many fishermen and their boats are still in Pak custody and by when they are likely to be released;

(d) how many times there have been violations of the Indian territorial waters by the Pakistani Coast Guards, Navy and Marine Security Forces, by taking away with them Indian fishermen and their boats during each of the last three years and so far in 1995, and what are the details thereof; and

(e) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to check the Pakistani piracy into Indian territorial waters of Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Incidents of harassment and capture of Indian fishermen by Pakistani Security Agencies occur periodically, off the Coast of Gujarat, close to the national Maritime boundary which has not been finalised yet.

There were no incidents of capture of Indian fishermen in 1992. In 1993 and 1994, Pakistan captured 16 fishing boats with 106 fishermen, and 32 fishing boats with 195 fishermen respectively. So far, in 1995, according to available information, 4 boats with 19 Indian fishermen were taken into custody by Pakistan.

Following reports of capture, Government immediately take up the matter of early release and repatriation of all Indian fishermen in Pakistan's custody with the Government of Pakistan. The last exchange of fishermen between India and Pakistan took place in January 1995 when Government secured the release of 27 Indian fishermen and 5 Indian fishing boats.

According to available information, at present there are 187 fishermen and 31 fishing boats in Pakistan's custody. Government have taken up with Pakistan the matter of early release and repatriation of these Indian fishermen and modalities are being worked out through diplomatic channels.

Government have also taken up with Pakistan through diplomatic channels, the matter of the safety and security of Indian fishermen.

Regular and continuous patrolling of our territorial waters off the Coast of Gujarat is being maintained by the Coast Guard as a measure of constant vigil and to prevent any intrusions by Pakistan even though there have been no incidents of violation of our territorial waters as such in the recent period.